

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PL

SUBJECT: STAG ANTONIA CHAYES

REF: STATE 061635

1. STAG ANTONIA CHAYES WAS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMMING IN WARSAW DURING THE VISIT TO POLAND OF HER HUSBAND, HARVARD PROFESSOR ABRAM CHAYES, WHO WAS A GUEST OF THE POLISH INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. AS THEIR STAY WAS BRIEF (APRIL 10-13, INCLUDING A WEEKEND), THE EMBASSY WAS ABLE TO PROGRAM MRS CHAYES IN ONLY ONE PROFESSIONAL MEETING OF SIGNIFICANCE. ON APRIL 11, MRS CHAYES SPENT THREE HOURS IN CONFERENCE WITH TWO OF THE LEADERS OF THE POLISH WOMEN'S LEAGUE (LIGA KOBIET), WERONIKA JACKOWSKA, LEAGUE SECRETARY, AND ROMUALDA CHRUSZCZOW, DIRECTOR OF THE LEAGUE'S SOCIAL INSTITUTE.

2. ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY EXTRA-GOVERNMENTAL, THE LEAGUE IS A CONTROLLED MASS ORGANIZATION FOR MOBILIZING WOMEN IN SUPPORT OF PARTY POLICY. ITS CHAIR-WOMAN IS A WELL-KNOW, LONG-TIME PARTY APPARATCHIK WHO IS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, LIKE MANY ORGANIZATIONS IN POLAND, THE LEAGUE OPERATES ON TWO LEVELS AND, ON THE POPULAR LEVEL, IT DOES HAVE SOME STANDING AS A DEFENDER OF WOMEN AND

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THE FAMILY IN POLISH SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT, AND THE

COURTS. AS THE MEETING WAS AN INTIMATE ONE, THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS BETWEEN MRS CHAYES AND THE LEAGUE LEADERS WAS, ONCE POLISH INITIAL CAUTION WAS OVERCOME BY MRS CHAYES' OPENNESS AND SINCERITY, QUITE FREE AND SPIRITED.

3. THE DISCUSSION COVERED THE USUAL CONSIDERATIONS OF WORKING WOMEN, THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN SOCIETY AND UNDER THE LAW, AND THE GENERAL TOPIC OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN WITHIN THE SOCIAL FABRIC. ON THESE TOPICS, BOTH SIDES FOUND MUCH THEY COULD AGREE UPON AND FOUND, TOO, THAT WHERE THEY DISAGREED, THEY WERE ABLE TO APPRECIATE EACH OTHERS' POINTS OF VIEW. FOR THIS, MRS CHAYES IS MUCH TO BE CREDITED. HER LEGAL TRAINING AND WORK RECORD GAVE HER GREAT CREDENCE WITH THE LEAGUE WOMEN, AND HER INTEREST IN AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE UPCOMING CONFERENCES ON WOMEN TO BE HELD IN EAST BERLIN AND MEXICO CITY(POLAND WILL, OF COURSE, HAVE DELEGATIONS AT BOTH) SPURRED THEM INTO FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. THE MEETING, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO LAST ABOUT TWO HOURS, RAN PAST THE THREE-HOUR MARK AND WOULD HAVE CONTINUED LONGER HAD NOT MRS CHAYES ALREADY BEEN LATE FOR A LUNCHEON APPOINTMENT. BEFORE LEAVING, MRS CHAYES VOLUNTEERED HER SERVICES TO THE DELEGATION FROM POLAND THAT WILL BE ACTING AS OBSERVERS AT THE PRE-MEXICO CITY MEETING IN NEW YORK OF SOCIALIST WOMEN'S DELEGATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

5. THE EMBASSY REGRETS THAT IT COULD NOT MAKE FURTHER USE OF THE PRESENCE OF MRS CHAYES. SHE IS AN ARTICULATE SPEAKER, CLEARLY SENSITIVE TO THE AUDIENCE SHE IS ADDRESSING, AND MORE THAN WELL INFORMED IN HER AREAS OF EXPERTISE. WE HOPE WE WILL HAVE A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM HER MORE THOROUGHLY, AND RECOMMEND HER HIGHLY FOR FUTURE PROGRAMMING EITHER BY THE DEPARTMENT OR USIA.
DAVIES

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